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Letter dated 10 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of the Republic of Iraq follows a firm national strategy with regard to the problem of drugs, inasmuch as it is a multidimensional, national, regional and international problem that presents a grave threat to the health, safety and well-being of all mankind and undermines development, as well as having a grave impact on the dignity and hopes of millions of human beings. As such, it constitutes a serious threat to social and economic systems and to stability. In its conviction that the combating of narcotic drugs is a joint responsibility shared by all, Iraq has participated actively at the international and regional levels to promote effective cooperation to combat narcotic drugs, and the Republic of Iraq has been concerned to ensure its active and effective presence at international gatherings relating to the combating of narcotic drugs. Iraq has acceded to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and its Protocol of 1972, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Iraq has also taken a series of national legal and legislative measures in accordance with the provisions of the relevant international conventions to which it has acceded. The Republic of Iraq has strengthened these measures by a decisive penal, social and health policy that has enhanced awareness of the hazards of narcotic drugs and reinforced penalties in order to deter any person seeking to produce, smuggle or use narcotic drugs.

This policy has succeeded in radically curbing the phenomenon of narcotic drug use and production inside Iraq and has curbed the attempts of drug-smuggling networks to use Iraq as a transit point between drug-producing and drug-consuming areas. The Iraqi authorities have recently apprehended some smugglers who tried to use the territory of the Republic of Iraq as a transit point between producer areas and demand areas (both of them being outside Iraq). This phenomenon has been made worse by the fact that there is an increasing demand for narcotic drugs in certain neighbouring countries, which has prompted smugglers to attempt to use Iraq's territory as a transit point for smuggling their toxins to those countries.

We have prefaced these observations in order to explain Iraq's efforts to curb the phenomenon of the trade in narcotic drugs at the national, regional and international levels. We draw attention here, with regret, to the letter dated 10 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia (S/2001/689) containing allegations that, on 11 June 2001, smugglers tried to cross the Saudi frontier and

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giving these allegations a political dimension with a view to vilifying Iraq and its positions on combating narcotic drugs. At the same time, it is implied in the letter that Saudi Arabia supports Iraq's efforts in the field of combating drug-smuggling and is endeavouring bilaterally or through the machinery of the League of Arab States or the United Nations to coordinate with the Iraqi side in the combating of drug-smuggling. We wish to point out here that the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Iraq recently approached the Ministry of the Interior of Saudi Arabia through the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior with a view to devising a formula for coordination and cooperation between the two countries in the combating of drug-smuggling. The Saudi Arabian Ministry of the Interior has so far not responded to the Iraqi request.

Lastly, we wish to draw attention to the determination of the Government of the Republic of Iraq to enforce rigorously national and regional laws on the combating of narcotic drugs and its readiness to coordinate with neighbouring States with a view to putting an end to this bane that threatens mankind and forthcoming generations with the gravest dangers.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative